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U.S. THINKS SOVIET HOLDS 2 TOURISTS

State Department Believes
Men Are Being Detained
for Taking Photographs

By JOHN W. FINNEY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6

Two American tourists, missing in the Soviet Union since August, apparently are being held by Soviet authorities for having taken photographs, the State Department said today.

The two are Harvey C. Bennett, 26 years old, of Bath, Maine, and Mark Kaminsky, 28, of Jefferson Township, Cass County, Mich.

They entered the Soviet Union from Finland on July 27. They had been scheduled to leave the Soviet Union about Aug. 25 at Chop, where the Soviet, Hungarian and Czechoslovak borders converge.

Repeated inquiries by the United States Embassy in Moscow during the last month have brought replies from Intourist, the official Soviet travel agency, and the Soviet Foreign Ministry that the whereabouts of the two men was not known.

The State Department reported today that it had been informed by an American tourist that he had seen Mr. Kaminsky on Aug. 25 in the Intourist Hotel at Uzhgorod, a Soviet border control point twenty miles north of Chop. The tourist, not identified by the State Department, reported that Mr. Kaminsky had "stated he was under detention for having taken photographs."

The State Department made it clear that it believed the two men were still in the Soviet Union and that the Soviet Government knew their whereabouts.

"It is quite clear that the two Americans cannot be missing in the Soviet Union without the knowledge of the Soviet Government," Francis W. Tully Jr., a State Department spokesman, said.

The detention of the men would be the latest in a series of arrests this summer of American tourists in the Soviet Union on charges of taking photographs illegally for espionage. Such charges have been made against at least four American tourists, but none was detained long.

The two men, both of whom had majored in Russian studies in college, were reported to have rented a car for their trip through the Soviet Union.

Mrs. Bennett said in a telephone

interview from Bath, Me., that she believed both her husband and Mr. Kaminsky had received scholarships for the trip from the Northcraft Educational Fund of Philadelphia.

No fund by this name was listed in the Philadelphia telephone directory. A State Department spokesman said the department had no knowledge of the fund.

The last direct word from the men was received on Sept. 6 when Mrs. Bennett got a postcard from her husband. The card was dated Aug. 19 and was postmarked at Vinnitsa, a town in the Ukraine near the Czech border.

Mr. Bennett wrote that he had had auto trouble but planned to leave the Soviet Union at Chop in about six days.

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